

Amendments to the Specification:

Please replace paragraph [0018] with the following amended paragraph:

An exemplary apparatus for securing and passively aligning objects to substrates is shown in Figs. 1 and 2. According to this embodiment, the apparatus 10 includes a substrate 12 having a plurality of standardized passive alignment features or receiving structures 14 in predetermined locations and configured to receive and passively align optical modules or modular optical elements 16, 18, 20. In certain embodiments, each ~~optical~~ optical module or modular optical element 16, 18, 20 includes an optical element 22, 24, and 26 passively aligned and secured to a base 28 adapted to be received by the alignment features 14. In certain embodiments, the bases 28 have standardized features and or sizes so that they can be interchangeably secured to the substrate in a variety of locations. According to some embodiments, each base 28 is secured to the substrate 12 by cooperation with the passive alignment features or receiving features 14. In addition, in certain embodiments, the bases are adapted to be secured to the substrate in various locations. In some embodiments, the optical elements are secured to the bases at predetermined spatial and angular positions. For example, optical elements such as thin film filter substrates could be fabricated that differ in orientation at various incremental angular positions to satisfy the alignment criteria of a variety of devices.